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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some high lights of this week's summary: County agents in one State place more than 37,000 farm laborers; plans made to get help of 9,000 nonfarm people to harvest big peanut crop; 5,000 families cooperate in buying food for canning; 1,000,000 pounds of deer meat available to add to meat supply.

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ALABAMA

August 6, 1943

Farm labor. Farm labor program well under way. Placement centers set up and functioning in each county and emergency farm labor assistants employed in 62 counties. To date major county labor problems have been solved satisfactorily. Good job done by 500 city boys transported to Baldwin County for potato harvest. Recruited 200 workers for temporary emergency work in Ohio.

Next big job is harvesting greavest crop of peanuts in State's history. More than half of peanuts to be dug in 67 counties will be harvested in 9 southeastern counties. To do efficient harvesting job of half million acres in these 9 counties, 9,000 nonfarm people will be needed. Peanuts will be ready around September 15 and should be harvested within 2 weeks. If not harvested at proper time many plants are pulled loose and nuts left in ground, reducing yield by 50 percent or more.

Plans for this emergency job nearing completion. Among many things being done to get ready for harvesting are following: War food rallies to be led by Governor; closing of schools; closing business houses 2 days a week during peak season; adjusting court sessions; use of placards, press, radio, and personal contacts for patriotic appeal; vagrancy law enforcement for use in recruitment; release of servants by townspeople; educational campaign to have everything in readiness at beginning of harvest; maximum use of all available labor-saving machinery; swap work between farms; cross-farm supervision. Goal is to have every person in these counties not in other essential work to aid in peanut harvest.

Home food supply. Canned-food storage now "must" in Alabama home-management program. Demonstrations on canned-food storage being held in monthly home demonstration club meetings in 25 counties. All other counties are encouraged

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to include it in 1944 programs. Emphasis placed on better use of space already available and satisfactory types of storage at cost within reach of every farm family. Aim now is to influence all families to give more thought and action to proper storage of canned food so that none will be lost for lack of it. Problem will become more urgent as war continues.

During June and July 20 temporary assistant home demonstration agents were employed to help with demonstrations for town and city families interested in canning vegetables produced in Victory Gardens.

TEXAS

August 1, 1943

Farm labor.-Reports from 226 counties show that county agents have placed more than 37,000 laborers on farms and ranches. Many other persons have gone to farms for patriotic reasons, but their work has not been reported. Brown County neighborhood leaders organized 79 labor units for exchange of work and machinery, enabling 789 farm families to harvest 250,000 pounds of green beans with only normal loss. In Palo Pinto County leaders arranged for 850 farm families to trade work and thus reduce need for outside help. Students of Texas State College for Women volunteered to work in Denton County cottonfields after school hours. Hale County agent asked businessmen to send all help they could spare to his office each morning. As result, 300 persons were made available for work in fields. School opening in Fannin County put off 6 weeks to let children and teachers pick cotton. Hardeman County agent helped in placing 26 out-of-State harvest crews with trucks and combines on grainfields.

Food conservation.-Nearly 5,000 Texas families in 29 counties have bought co-operatively 6,000 dozen pineapples, from which 72,000 pints were canned and 10,600 pints of juice made. Purchases included 900 dozen by home demonstration clubwomen in 7 Panhandle counties and 338 dozen by 245 clubwomen in Fort Bend county. These transactions were initial ventures in cooperative buying by marketing committees of several county home demonstration councils. After orders were pooled, regional merchants and truckers were asked for bids. Results so satisfactory that plans are being made to buy fruit and tomatoes cooperatively in fall.

In Montgomery county about 50 families weekly are using county-owned canning equipment with output of about 3,500 containers.

To help in distribution of home-grown foods, many marketing committees have put up bulletin boards at strategic places in counties, where farmers may list products and equipment for sale, exchange, or loan.

Cotton improvement.-Producers this year materially increased planting of approved cotton varieties for required wartime lint production. Cotton harvesting has begun in southern Texas. With favorable weather and enough labor, crop will add much to Nation's supply of superior cotton. Farmers urged to harvest and gin cotton properly to obtain maximum grade and quality.

Swine.--During 1943, Texas 4-H boys will produce pork equivalent to a year's food budget for 50,000 fighters. This spring 1,500 purebred sow and boar pigs were placed with 4-H Club boys. These, added to 1,080 in 1942 and 784 in 1941, similarly placed, make total of 3,364. Many boys also feeding out feeder pigs, especially on farms producing surplus feed. Boys' hog sales often are large enough to require income-tax return.

Adult farmers have expanded hog production as expected. Spring pig crop in State is 33 percent larger than last year, and large fall farrowing in sight. Feed scarcity threatens; shortage of tankage acute. Protein meal from cottonseed, soybeans, and peanuts obtainable in limited quantities. Farmers bought and fed wheat until 1943 feed crop began to ripen. With seasonal rains enough grain will be grown to produce about 3,500,000 hogs. Farmers generally feeding balanced rations, accounting largely for shortage of high-protein feeds. Self-feeders in use everywhere. Concrete feeding floors and hog wallows built increasingly, and large demand made for hog-house and hog-lot equipment plans.

Food and feed crops.--Acreage of principal food and food crops has increased substantially in spite of labor shortage. Acreage of feed grains (corn, grain sorghum, oats, barley, rye) is 16 percent over 1942. Food crops (white potatoes, sweetpotatoes, rice, wheat) total 3,720,000 acres, compared with 3,346,000 last year. Acreage of chief oil crops (peanuts, soybeans, flax) is 1,204,000, compared with 1,061,000 in 1942. Estimated yields also show considerable increase: Corn up 13,541,000 bushels; oats up 4,480,000 bushels; rice up 5,394,000 bushels; white potatoes up 1,149,000 bushels; sweetpotatoes up 3,915,000 bushels.

Dairying.--Series of dairy day shows and feeding schools held. Cows were classified or scored to demonstrate good dairy type, so dairymen would be better qualified to select best cows for production. Radio, news articles, and dairy news letters also used to promote production.

Wildlife.--Brightest prospect for game birds - quail and dove - in years, and excellent crop of white-tailed deer likely. More than a million pounds of fine deer meat will be available, along with fish from formerly neglected waters, as contribution to Food-for-Victory program. Arrangements made with nine Federal fish hatcheries for stocking farm ponds under direction of county agents.

Distribution of extension publication, Rabbit Raising for Meat, aroused interest in rabbit production among urban people and 4-H Clubs. Several counties held rabbit shows with more than 300 entries.

Clothing Conservation.--Emphasis given to remaking of men's suits and overcoats into garments for women, girls, and small children. Home demonstration clubwomen of Red River have restyled 50 garments. After attending a demonstration on restyling, 2 women made over 17 old garments and put them into use. Floyd County women held an exhibit of economically restyled clothing.

VIRGINIA

August 1, 1943

Feed shortage.--Livestock and crop specialists concentrating efforts on feed shortage, supplying information for general publicity and to county professional workers on feed saving and production. Committee drew up 4-page Food-for-Victory leaflet of condensed suggestions, to be distributed in August to all neighborhood leaders. Plans made for meetings of professional workers and community leaders in every county, where specialists will give more detailed suggestions on local feed problems.

Food preservation.--Home demonstration specialists, agents, and club members concentrating on canning and dehydration of garden products. Report from a county recently adding home demonstration work tells of 31 demonstrations for 253 farm women. In a semi-industrial county, 4-H and home demonstration clubs are centers for demonstrations, many held at night and well attended by industrial workers.

Poultry.--In 33 counties specialists held 11 culling and vaccination demonstrations, 29 general poultry meetings; visited 39 4-H projects, 22 adult projects, and 163 farms; attendance at meetings, 421.

Vegetable Gardening.--Specialists held 89 demonstrations, mostly on home gardening, for 276 persons; and 16 meetings, attended by 781.

WYOMING

August 1, 1943

Farm labor.--Helping farm and ranch people to obtain labor was most important job of Extension during month. Through efforts of agents, labor assistants, and committees, about 1,000 laborers were placed during July. Plans were made to bring war prisoners, and laborers from drought sections of other States, into Wyoming for haying and other harvest work.

One county reports more than 100 Crop Corps volunteers now hoeing beans. Most of them have never done this kind of work before. Response of nonfarm women and youth in helping to save bean crop has been excellent.

Platte County agent's office filled 96 jobs on farms and ranches during July, including 55 harvest, 17 hay, and 18 general farm and ranch hands, and 6 bean hoers.

Considerable progress made in organizing so as to shift groups of laborers from one type of work to another to keep them fully employed. In Washakie County, 25 Mexican nationals, after thinning and hoeing beets, were released to extension agent for placement on farms to help in grain harvest and stacking, bean hoeing, and other farm work. In this way they will be kept in county for beet harvest in late September.

Fire protection and control.-County organizations set up for fire protection and control are getting practical experience in fire fighting and are proving their worth. One county agent reports Forest Fire Fighters have helped to control 15 of 20 fires occurring since it was organized and are trying to obtain additional fire-fighting equipment to be placed throughout county. Another agent reports July was bad month for fires. One fire alone destroyed between 3,000 and 4,000 acres of grass on Arapahoe ranch. Fire-control organization is playing important part in recruiting men and equipment and helping to combat fires.

Food preservation.-Practical demonstrations on methods of food preservation, canning, brining, drying, and freezing, given in 22 counties during month. Lively interest shown in all phases of food preservation. Pressure cookers working overtime for individual owners and groups. Much work done in testing pressure-cooker gauges. More applications filed for purchasing cookers than can possibly be filled this year. Canning centers being set up in number of towns for use of those who do not have canning equipment of their own.

